المجلس الإسلامي

Islamic Council

12 June 1987

Mr Ian Martin
Secretary General
Amnesty International
1 Easton St
London WC1X

Dear Mr Martin,

Thank you for your kind letter of 5 June. I was very pleased to meet you and to discuss our mutual concerns.

We are very grateful for Amnesty International's action taken on the current situation in Egypt. We receive news almost every day of new arrests, all made under the emergency laws, numbers now reaching thousands since the incident concerning Hassan Abu Basha. Sadly, reports of torture and mal-treatment are also frequent, and I wonder if you would consider sending an Amnesty International observer to Egypt, to monitor the situation ? The presence of a representative from Amnesty International might discourage the Egyptian authorities from their worst excesses.

I am delighted to know that you are considering sending a trial observer to Tunisia, and urge you to do so. I will let you have details of our own plans as soon as possible.

You will see from the enclosed invitation that the Islamic Council is to hold a Press Conference next Thursday on the current situation in both Egypt and Tunisia. I do hope that Amnesty International will be able to attend. We expect lawyers and members of the opposition from both countries and if you would like to meet any of these personally I should be pleased to arrange it.

Concerning your wish to further relations with the OIC, I suggest you write to its Secretary General, Mr Sharif Uddin Pirzada, in the first instance, and when he next visits London I will be pleased to introduce you to him.

I am arranging for the document on the Islamic Penal Code submitted to the Prime Minister of Sudan to be sent to you under separate cover. As it is our intention to have this published in book form, I should be grateful if you would treat it as confidential.

I look forward to meeting you again soon. With best wishes,

Yours sincerely